

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 3 February 2011 in room V-134 of Lyster Army Health Clinic. It was the 265th regularly scheduled meeting since the Council was established in 1973.

1. Members present/absent and advisors present were:

MEMBERS (Army Retiree, except as indicated)

PRESENT

COL Bob Bunting
COL James Hyers
LTC Ray Collins
CW4 Bob Cooper
EOC Fred Griffin, USN

CSM Gene Nelson
CSM James Harris
SMS Jean A. Woodruff, USAF
Mrs. Marie Wilkins

MEMBERS ABSENT

BG Douglas Smith
COL Emil Zimmermann
LTC Carolyn Bost-Pittman

ISG Ken Prier
SFC Bennett Jergenson
SFC Ralph Reed
TSGT Bill Bieber, USAF

ADVISORS PRESENT

COL James Muskopf GAR CDR
Ms. Nancy Rasmussen, PAO
Mr. Ed Donnley, VA
Ms. Patricia Austin, AAFES

COL Patrick Denman, LAHC CDR
Mr. Chris Moore, RSO
Mr. Joe Escobar, AAFES
Janice Erdlitz MWR

2. CSM Nelson called the meeting to order at 1300 and COL Hyers opened the meeting with prayer.

3. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.

4. Old Business - The committee voted on SFC(R) Rickey Jones' application and recommended him for membership. An appointment letter will be forwarded to the Garrison Commander.

5. Committee Reports.

a. Public Affairs - CSM Nelson reported that the Enterprise Retiree Committee discussed their August and October 2011 activity plans. He will request the 98th Army Band perform at the August activity. Dates for both activities will be discussed at a later date.

b. Legislative affairs - COL Hyers reported that new budget rules could mean a gridlock in the 112th congress. At odds were the differences between two spending rules known as "PAYGO" in the Senate and "CUT-GO" in the house. Essentially, entitlement spending (also known as mandatory spending) involves any program that is subject to automatic adjustments mechanisms such as COLA and doesn't require annual appropriations. It includes such programs as Social Security, Medicare, Military and Civilian Retirement, and Survivor programs. The only way the House can get around the PAYGO rule is to declare a spending increase as an emergency need, as emergencies are not subject to the PAYGO rule. Several other current bills were presented.

c. Health Care - COL Denman discussed the on-going construction and outlined for board members the changes and improvements expected as a result of the construction. He also discussed the upcoming partnership between the active force and the VA. The VA will have access to current member medical records. The end result will be a much improved process in documenting a disability.

d. Community activity. No report

e. Commissary - Next case lot sale will be in May.

f. Retiree Volunteer Support. No Report

g. Golf Course.

h. AAFES - Mr. Escobar discussed an on-going "Take It Home" program that takes the place of the traditional lay-a-way program. Under this program payments are made on merchandise while it is in the person's home. He cited success with the program both in the making of payments by persons using the program and the savings in warehousing costs.

i. Equestrian Center. No report

j. Outdoor Recreation. No report

k. Bowling Alley - SMS Woodruff discussed on-going ideas for the bowling alley. Among the ideas presented was a bowling tournament between the services.

l. RAD - Mr. Moore reported that Alabama VA Commissioner, RADM(R) Marsh is currently confirmed to speak at the RAD the last Friday in October 2011.

6. Advisors' Comments. The Garrison Commander discussed the removal of the cement barricades at the installation entrances. Members agreed that traffic on and off post was facilitated by the change. Several other on-going projects were also discussed including an exercise that would allow the installation to address needs in case of an active shooter on post.

7. New Business. Fred Griffin, Emil Zimmerman and Carolyn Bost-Pittman have resigned from

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the Retiree Council effective immediately due to personal reasons. Letters of resignation received from EOC Griffin and COL Zimmerman will be forwarded to the Garrison Commander's office.

8. The meeting adjourned at 1245. The next meeting will be March 4, 2011 at the landing.

Approved via-email


Bob Bunting
COL, Retired
Co-Chairman

Approved via-email

Gene Nelson
CSM, Retired
Co-Chairman

Prepared by:

Gene Nelson
CSM, Retired
Co-Chairman


JAMES A. MUSKOPF
Colonel, Aviation
Garrison Commander

MAR 02 2011